

LIZ0003-DIV

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of:

CHRISTOPHER A. LIZELL

Serial No. DIVN. of USSN

09/323,213 filed June 1, 1999

Art Unit: Not Yet Assigned

Filed: August 27, 2001

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

For: MODULAR SUPPORT SYSTEM

Assistant Commissioner for Patents

Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to examination of this application on the merits, please amend the application as follows.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please add claims as follows:

4. A joining member for use in a modular system for managing wires comprising:
an inner portion having an inner surface adapted to engage a first element,
an outer portion having an outer surface adapted to engage a second element,
the outer surface being adapted to be enclosed by the second element, and
wherein the joining member is capable of accommodating at least one wire radially
inward of the outer surface and radially outward of the inner surface.

5. The joining member according to claim 4, wherein the first element is a column.

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6. The joining member according to claim 4, wherein the inner surface defines a hole extending through the joining member.

7. The joining member according to claim 4, wherein a second hole disposed radially inward of the outer surface accommodates at least one wire.

8. The joining member according to claim 4, further comprising an offset fastner.

9. The joining member according to claim 4, further comprising a hinge and a seam that permit the joining member to open and close.

10. The joining member according to claim 4, further comprising a rib disposed in the inner surface and protruding radially inward of the inner surface.

Please cancel claims 1-3 without prejudice or disclaimer.

REMARKS

A favorable action on the merits of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

CHRISTOPHER A. LIZELL

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